

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NL, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER VISITS THE NETHERLANDS

1. SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES MET WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER FOR THREE HOURS SATURDAY, MAY 4. SOARES TOLD PRESS AFTER MEETING HE HAD MADE NO FORMAL REQUESTS OF GON. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL SAID GON IS WAITING TO EVALUATE PORTUGAL'S PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS PROGRAM PRIOR TO MAKING ANY DECISIONS ON PORTUGUESE EC ASSOCIATION OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES SAW PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL FOR THREE HOURS SATURDAY, MAY 4. FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD PRESS LATER THAT GON WAITING TO SEE
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WHAT KIND OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTUGAL WILL HAVE AND

WHAT PROGRAM IT WILL FOLLOW BEFORE DECIDING ON WHAT GON POLICY TOWARD PORTUGAL SHOULD BE. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID "OUR HOPE IS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL END COLONIAL DEPENDENCE AND BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FREEDOM MOVEMENTS IN GUINEA-BISSAU, ANGOLA AND MOZEMBIQUE. FORMIN REITERATED GON VIEW THAT GON RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU MUST COME IN CONCERT WITH THAT OF NORDIC STATES AND OTHER EC MEMBERS. VAN DER STOEL SAID IT WAS NOT HIS BUSINESS TO EXPRESS PREFERENCE FOR SOARES AS LEADER OF NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT BUT COMMENTED IT IMPROBABLE GENERAL SPINOLA WOULD HEAD NEW REGIME.

3. SOARES TOLD PRESS THAT THE MOST CRITICAL DANGER PORTUGAL FACES IS A COUNTER-REVOLUTION OF CONSERVATIVE FORCES. SOARES HAD SAID HE HAD NOT REQUESTED ANY GON SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL SINCE HE WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HIS TRIP WAS PART OF ROUND ROBIN VISIT TO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE TO INFORM THEM OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. SOARES SAID WESTERN EUROPEANS HAD JUSTIFIED DISTASTE FOR MILITARY JUNTAS. THUS ONE OF HIS TASKS WAS TO PROVE THE SPONOLA REGIME NOT SIMILAR TO THE REGIME IN CHILE. SOARES CLAIMED ONE OF NEW GOVERNMENT'S MOST IMPORTANT TASKS WILL BE RESTORATION OF ECONOMY. HE PROMISED THAT IF SOCIALISTS GOVERN (POSSIBLY WITH THE COMMUNISTS) NATIONALIZATION OF KEY INDUSTRIES WOULD BE ONE OF FIRST STEPS. ASKED ABOUT HIS OWN CHANCES FOR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT SOARES SIAD "IF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WIN THE ELECTIONS, THERE IS CERTAINLY THAT POSSIBILITY." HE DOUBTED GENERAL SPINOLA, A CAREER MILITARY MAN, WOULD WISH TO CONTINUE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS.

4. ON COLONIAL ISSUE, SOARES STRESSED THAT THE PEOPLES IN COLONIAL TERRITORIES HAD ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND SAID "WE ARE READY TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS PRINCIPLE." HE DECLARED COLONIAL WAR MUST BE ENDED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND NEGOTIA-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIONS BEGUN WITH THE FREEDOM MOVEMENTS.

5. STATE SECRETARY KOOIJMANS TOLD CHARGE THAT IN HIS TALK WITH PRIMIN DEN UYL AND FONMIN VAN DER STOEL, SOARES HAD DESCRIBED JUNTA LEADERSHIP AS "DESPERATELY" LOOKING FOR RESPONSIBLE CIVILIANS TO WHOM THEY COULD TURN OVER THE GOVERNMENT AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. SOARES TOLD THE DUTCH THAT HE HAD GIVEN CONSIDERABLE

THOUGH AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD BE BEST TO INCLUDE OR
EXCLUDE COMMUNISTS FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT. HE HAD
CONCLUDED THAT IF HE WERE NAMED PRIME MINISTER HE
WOULD NAME ONE OR MORE COMMUNIST MINISTERS SINCE IT
WOULD BE EASIER TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM THAT WAY THAN
IF THEY WERE LEFT OUT. SOARES WAS REPORTEDLY
CONFIDENT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE DANGER AT THE PRESENT
TIME OF A COUNTER-COUP IN PORTUGAL BY THE EXTREME
RIGHT, ALTHOUGH HE TOOK OPPOSITE LINE WITH PRESS.
TANGUY

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